

SERIES 5

مواقف

REFLECTIONS

مواقف

SHEIKH DR MAHMOUD MRGLANI

Translated by
Associates Professor Gavin N. Picken
(Abdul Karim Shadhili)

Zawiyah As-Syaziliyyah International - Malaysia

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Translated by Sidi Abdul Karim

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BAIT SYDNA ABDUN NASIR AL-HASANI

No. 2 Jalan Gunung Nuang U11/9A, Bukit Bandaraya SS U11,

40170 Shah Alam, Selangor Darul Ehsan

*The material for this book was compiled by muridin and muridat
Sidna al-Shaykh al-Kamil al-Sharif Abdun Nasir Al-Hasani al-Syazili.*



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*Sidna As-Syeikh Al-Kamil
As-Syarif Abdun Nasir Al-Hasani As-Syazili*

“When the end of time comes it will be on the worst of mankind.”

O ALLAH *prevent us from being from them through the eminence of Sayyiduna al-Nabi salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam.*

O ALLAH *save us, save us, save us and protect us and cover our faults.*

O ALLAH *be gentle with us and make us from the community of Sayyiduna Muhammad salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam.*





- 1 -

I was in a Pharmacy and after buying some medication, there was half a riyal in change let over.

I was given the receipt and I asked, "Where's the change?" He replied insolently, "I put it in the charity box." I said, "Why didn't you seek my permission first?" He responded, "I don't need to seek your permission because it's only a small amount."

Judge for yourselves my dear readers from this example the qualities of the worst of mankind.

I told him, "This is not allowed, it doesn't matter if the amount is large or small, the issue is that you acted [without permission] regarding something that you do not own."

Judge for yourselves my dear readers from this example the qualities of the worst of mankind.

Wa la hawla wa la quwwata illa bi ALLAH al-'Aliyu al-'Azim!

- 2 -

My friend wanted to slaughter a sheep so I went with to the livestock market and then to the slaughterhouse.

After a lot of swearing of oaths, even though my friend did not request the seller to swear any oaths, my friend chose the animal he wanted and then we went to the slaughterhouse. Actually, the place was clean, and the animal was slaughtered correctly in terms of facing the Qibla and reciting the Takbir and the Basmala. Then the meat was cut up, put into bags and carried to the car by one of the slaughterhouse workers. Suddenly, the slaughterhouse worker pulled out a small bag and said to my friend, "Give me my portion of this meat." So my friend said to him, "And what is your portion of this meat that belongs to me?" He replied, "It's customary ..." and displaying no manners whatsoever he continued saying, "Don't talk too much just give me my portion." So I intervened and said, "My friend wanted to give you something for ALLAH's sake

but take this money instead and go back to work."

My dear readers, why is it that we learn the worst behavior and we do not learn the best?

There was a time when thieves and crooks would steal but would hide and be ashamed but nowadays they steal openly and are not ashamed, afraid or hide.

Indeed, the greatest calamity is that they think they are in the right!

O ALLAH do not make us the worst of mankind
– Ya Arham al-Rahimin!

There was a time when thieves and crooks would steal but would hide and be ashamed but nowadays they steal openly and are not ashamed, afraid or hide.



- 3 -

Subhan ALLAH wa bi hamdihi ... subhana ALLAH al-'Azim.

Our spiritual masters, ridwan ALLAH 'alayhim ajma'in – especially our master and reliance, the Hasanid Sharif Shaykh Abdul Nasir – radiya ALLAH 'anhu, say, "Keeping the company of common folk is a deadly poison."

This is because there is a huge difference between someone who has been chosen by ALLAH subhanahu wa ta'ala to take the Path of ALLAH - The Path to the Hereafter - and those who cannot even differentiate between what is permissible and what is forbidden or between purity and filth.

This is the bounty of ALLAH tabaraka wa ta'ala and this bounty is His alone subhanahu wa ta'ala.

Truly unfortunate is the person who remains on the company of the common folk; he does nothing but argue, cause harm to others, commit errors, be offensive, deny and talk. Indeed he does nothing but talk. Although it is true that he has an emotional attachment to Islam but it made him behave as if he knows everything about everything until he thinks that he is above the Shari'a. Regrettably, however, he is unable to distinguish between light and darkness or good and evil.

As for those who spend their time in the company of the spiritual elect they are always

sympathetic, forgiving, make excuses for others and maintain a positive opinion about people and even treat well those who have been unpleasant to them. Although it is true that such a person also has an emotional attachment to Islam but it made him behave with mercy, love and most importantly humility, to the degree that he feels that he doesn't know anything. Moreover he made the Shari'a his shield from being led astray or being misguided.

So now do we know the world of difference between guidance and misguidance or truth and falsehood?

And do we now know who the oppressor is and who is oppressed?

O ALLAH do not make us from those who oppress!

*So now do we
know the world
of difference
between guidance
and misguidance
or truth and
falsehood?*



- 4 -

From the newly invented innovations of those who are not sanctioned to become spiritual masters, nurture others and give advice to the community, indeed, from the signs that they are deceiving the community, is that they will send an email or web link saying, "Fill in the following form." Then if you are successful in filling in the form this would be Shaykh will arrange a telephone appointment for you to receive 'permission' or 'instruction', or he will use other terms that we haven't heard of neither directly or indirectly.

As for me, the impoverished servant who is ignorant and weak, I am sure that such a person is a liar who gathers other liars like him in his company.

As for the truthful then they attract sincere people like them in their company.

This is the nature of things, which ALLAH subhanahu wa ta'ala has ennobled us with:

"ALLAH creates whatever He wishes and determines." (Q. 68: 28)

The Path of the spiritual elect is not a plaything, a game of numbers or a source of income, rather it is



The Path of the spiritual elect is not a plaything, a game of numbers or a source of income...

a unique form of spiritual nurturing and discipline, or in other words patience ... patience ... patience. And whoever was ennobled with this unique form of spiritual nurturing and discipline it is as if he has volunteered for the gallows! Whoever has experienced it knows only too well and whoever has not experienced it knows nothing of it, even if he read 1000 books, or listened to 1000 pieces of advice or attended 1000 lectures.

O ALLAH, guide us and bestow upon us the understanding of those who truly know You, through the eminence of Sayyiduna and Mawlana Muhammad Rasul ALLAH salla ALLAH 'alayhi wa salam.

- 5 -

Wine was described by Sayyiduna and Mawlana al-Nabi salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam as:

“The source of every despicable act” and,

“The source of all iniquity and the greatest of sins.”

In a narration on the authority of Sayyiduna ‘Abd ALLAH ibn Sayyidina ‘Umar b. al-Khattab radiya ALLAH ‘anhuma – May ALLAH benefit us through them – he said,

“Every intoxicant is considered the same as wine and every form of wine is forbidden.”

A friend of mine told me that he has travelled on many international airlines and saw astonishing things regarding the various types of alcoholic beverages that are served on board.

For example, when you request a Pepsi or Seven Up they fill only half a cup and then return the can to the trolley and serve you your drink as if you have committed some fatal error. Conversely, if you order wine they give you the entire bottle, put ice in your glass, call you ‘sir’ and serve you with a smile!

This is the state of our community after we have accepted “The source of every despicable act” and it became a norm, such that we do not object to it – not even in our hearts.

How then, if some people drink, or accept it, or even consider it permissible?

Have we no shame in front of ALLAH and His Rasul, salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam?

O ALLAH grant us shyness in front of you and I seek ALLAH’s forgiveness out of shame in front of ALLAH.

It is related by Imam Abu Dawud that Sayyiduna and Mawlana Rasul ALLAH salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam said,

“Wine is itself accursed, as is the one who drinks it, serves it, sells it, buys it, manufactures it, delivers it or receives it and benefits from its sale.”

It is also related by Imam Ahmad that Sayyiduna Ibn ‘Abbas radiya ALLAH ‘anhuma said: I heard Sayyiduna and Mawlana Rasul ALLAH salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam say,

“Jibril ‘alayhi al-salam came to me and said, ‘O Muhammad, ALLAH has cursed Wine and one who manufactured it, bought it, sold it, drank it, benefitted from its sale, transported it and served it.’ ”

So will we only object to it in our hearts – and that is the weakest manifestation of faith?



- 6 -

Is there any one of us who does not deal with banks ... or should I say 'financial institutions'? Such manipulation of terms is form of assuagement, or inattention, or even hardening or death of the heart.

Everyone knows that in this time bank managers are the most respected, the most wealthy, the most powerful - indeed, they run governments.

However, usury / interest was described in the following hadith on the authority of Sayyiduna Jabir radiya ALLAH 'anhu, who said,

"Sayyiduna and Mawlana Rasul ALLAH salla ALLAH 'alayhi wa salam cursed those whom consume usury, those who record the transaction and the one who bears witness to it, as they are considered equally complicit."

A friend of mine would say, "When we were young a bank was opened in our city while my uncle was one of the senior figures in the city. One day when we in one of our gatherings, the bank manager attended and so my uncle said to him, 'Please do not attend, as ALLAH's curse will afflict us, please leave, we are hoping for the mercy of ALLAH subhanahu wa ta'ala!' And so, the bank manager was prevented from attending, as he was considered someone who has declared war on ALLAH by engaging in interest and would,

as a consequence destroy our city. Time passed and my uncle died and more than one bank was opened in the city and the bank managers began attending our gatherings but they would sit on the periphery of the gathering. Nowadays, everything has changed - the bank managers occupy the most prestigious position in our gatherings and are considered the most important and senior people in the community."

Banks are like a saw – they cut in both directions – they take from the buyer and the seller; also, they always come to defence of the powerful against the weak and poor.

Every loan can be prolonged, delayed, extended or even forfeited, but not a bank loan as there is no mercy in it or reduction, there is only inflation, expansion and increase.

We ask O ALLAH, that You bestow Your mercy upon us regarding such banks as indeed, You are the All Merciful and Compassionate. O ALLAH, save us from being punished as we are indeed, believers.

O ALLAH do not allow to become us the worst of creation, O our Rabb, our Creator, our Sustainer.

'Please do not attend, as ALLAH's curse will afflict us, please leave, we are hoping for the mercy of ALLAH subhanahu wa ta'ala!'

- 7 -

Marriage in Islam is exactly that – an Islamic marriage and should not be subject to any form of manipulation, joking, ridicule, ridiculousness, innovation, lying, deceit, and ‘good’ intentions.

The prerequisites of marriage are well known:

1. The acceptance and agreement of the two parties – the bride’s family and the bridegroom’s family;
2. The dowry, without any conditions such ‘advanced’, ‘delayed’, or ‘suspended’;
3. The public announcement of the wedding.

As for marriage under its newly invented, innovated, updated and transformed names, then none of these have any authority from ALLAH subhana wa ta’ala, and they all fall under the remit of trickery and manipulation of reputation and lineage, that legalises fornication. In fact, they are the essence of fornication.

O ALLAH, save us from these forms of deceit and falsification and sin against ALLAH subhanahu wa ta’ala and His Messenger salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam.

Such matters have become widespread in recent years demonstrating no shame, shyness,



As for marriage under its newly invented, innovated, updated and transformed names, then none of these have any authority from ALLAH subhana wa ta’ala, and they all fall under the remit of trickery and manipulation of reputation and lineage, that legalises fornication.

religion and indeed, they were interpolated into the Shari'a.

ALLAH tabaraka wa ta 'ala and His Messenger salla ALLAH 'alayhi wa salam and the believers are blameless regarding all the newly invented terms, types and forms of marriage.

Anyone who wants to advocate such newly invented types of marriage then ask him the following questions:

Would you be happy for your daughter to be subject to these forms of marriage? (Of course not!)

Would you be happy for your sister to be subject to these forms of marriage? (Of course not!)

Would you be happy for your family to be subject to these forms of marriage? (Of course not!)

Then why do you advocate and disseminate such forms of marriage among the Muslim community?

Is your personal reputation, the reputation of your family and the reputation of the Muslim community so easy to insult in such a lowly, negligent and irresponsible manner?

O ALLAH do not allow to become us the worst of creation through the eminence of Your Beloved Messenger Sayyiduna and Mawlana Muhammad

Whoever understands has understood and whoever chooses to be ignorant remains ignorant. Fear ALLAH, O servants of ALLAH!

salla ALLAH 'alayhi wa salam – ALLAHumma amin!

Whoever understands has understood and whoever chooses to be ignorant remains ignorant. Fear ALLAH, O servants of ALLAH!

All of us will be brought in front of ALLAH subhana wa ta'ala on the Day of Judgement and we will have to settle our accounts in full in this life before the next, so let him wary of the following:

1. Fornication is fornication regardless of the terms given to it – even if the word 'marriage' is associated with it;
2. Disobedience to parents is extremely widespread in this time, such that no home is immune – except if ALLAH's mercy has been bestowed;
3. Usury/interest in financial institutions, whether are banks, money exchanges or stock markets.

O ALLAH grant us faith – the faith of the elderly.

O ALLAH we reject all of this and despise it in our hearts even though it is the weakest of faith.

- 8 -

A friend of mine said that politics used to be associated with compassion, skill, knowledge and was the art of making the impossible possible; its goal was peace and stability no matter what the cost.

Regarding this, my friend continued, we were advised to recompense in full a baker for his bread or a manufacturer for his products, even if there was some defect or discrepancy in them.

They also advised us that politics was a dirty business and anyone who engaged with it became dirty. Consequently, anyone who wanted to remain innocent and 'clean' should flee from politics and politicians, in the same way that he would flee from an approaching lion.

They also told us to 'divorce' politics three times, i.e. without the possibility of returning to it.

Indeed, they told us many things ...

As for this time – in the last 33 years or so – everything has changed.

Before, everyone would work behind the scenes indirectly, but now they work in the open, directly and in the most daring way. These are signs of the approach of the end of time, the time when the hearts will die and the indeed, the hearts have died through consuming the prohibited (haram), wearing garments that are prohibited, earning livelihoods that are prohibited, proudly and openly

engaging in transactions that involve interest and consuming intoxicants, whose names has been changed to make them appear permitted.

Further deceptions are promoted like the proliferation and acceptance of fornication in the Muslim community under the false pretense that its permitted and perfect example of this is the concept of 'boyfriends' and 'girlfriends', which is essentially fornication.

He told me it is shameful for me to reduce my prices; we are Arabs if we raise our prices it is impossible for us to reduce them again because it is shameful!

Consequently, we became accursed and ALLAH left us to our own devices and our politicians who do whatever they want with us. They were aided in this by despicable religious scholars, since the role of the religious scholar became a profession rather than for the promotion of knowledge, who permitted the impermissible in return for a salary.

O ALLAH do not allow to become us the worst of creation – ALLAHumma amin!

'The master of existence' and the 'cause behind every created being', Sayyiduna and Mawlana Muhammad salla ALLAH 'alayhi wa salam said,

"Time will become straitened, knowledge will be dwindle, miserliness will prevail, tribulations

will become manifest, and harj will become commonplace.” So they asked, “O Rasul ALLAH salla ALLAH ‘alayk, what is harj?” Sayyiduna and Mawlana Muhammad salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam replied, “It is murder, it is murder!”

Sayyiduna and Mawlana Rasul ALLAH salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam also said,
“Before the Final Hour there will be tribulations that resemble the blackness of night ... a person will wake in the morning as a believer and in the evening will be a disbeliever, and others will be believers in the evening and wake in the morning as disbelievers. The one who sits in this time is better than the one who stands; the one who stands is better than the one who walks and the one who walks is better than the one who hurries. So break your bows, cut your bowstrings, and smash your swords against a rock.”

Moreover, Sayyiduna and Mawlana Rasul ALLAH salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam said,
“By the One Who holds my life in His hands, there will come a time when a murderer does not know the reason why he kills and murder victim will not know why they were killed.”

In a similar vein, Sayyiduna and Mawlana Rasul ALLAH salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam said,
“Do become disbelievers after I am gone and murder each other.”

Sayyiduna Abu Darda’ radiya ALLAH ‘anhu similarly advised us saying,

“To stay at home and die as a Muslim is better than to be involved in tribulations.”

Sayyiduna and Mawlana Rasul ALLAH salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam said,

“Tribulations will befall you so seek shelter in ALLAH from their trials.”

O ALLAH, save us from every tribulation – whether it be manifest or hidden – in the Muslim lands or in the lands of the non-Muslims.

“We sent you as a Mercy for all creation” (Q. 21: 107) i.e. for everyone ...

ALLAHumma amin!

“By the One Who holds my life in His hands, there will come a time when a murderer does not know the reason why he kills and murder victim will not know why they were killed.”

- 9 -

In every one of these 'reflections' I have endeavored to:

"Remind, as indeed in reminding there is benefit; and only those who truly have fear will be reminded; and those who are wretched will avoid it." (Q. 87: 9-11)

I begin with my own soul first ... and how extraordinary the soul is!

It influences everything and taints it ... it affects the scholar in his pursuit of knowledge, the ascetic in his asceticism and even the spiritual elite in their elect relationship with ALLAH. In short it affects everything.

In fact, the negative attributes of the soul are an issue that is extremely critical, with the exception of those whom ALLAH subhana wa ta'ala has saved by putting them in the company of a living, perfected spiritual master, who nurtured them and guided them upon the path directly. Such a perfected spiritual master has true familiarity with ALLAH and the soul but such a genuine living heir to the spiritual tradition is exceedingly rare to find.

Al-hamdu li ALLAH, such spiritual masters exist in every time but while they are present amongst us they are not well known.

O ALLAH, I hope that You will never abandon me to the negativity of my soul for even a moment or even less than that Ya Ni'amal Mujib!

Sayyiduna and Mawlana al-Nabi salla ALLAH 'alayhi wa salam said,

"I am the 'grandfather' of every pious person."

It is for this reason that they advised, "Search for your spiritual 'father' - your teacher, master and nurturer, so that you may know and become acquainted with negative attributes of your soul."

"And [by] the soul and the One who proportioned it; then He inspired it [to discern between] its iniquity and its righteousness; indeed, he who purifies it has succeeded; and indeed, he who defiles it has failed." (Q. 91:7-10)

This is the objective of anyone who desires salvation – to renounce the worship of our own selves – with its various types and forms - and embrace the worship of ALLAH tabaraka wa ta 'ala, the Ever Living, the One and Only.

This is one of the main reasons for the presence of perfected spiritual masters in every time radiya ALLAH 'anhum ajma'in; they have been vested with authority, they have attained to the Divine Presence of the Sovereign, the Truth, the Manifest, subhana wa ta'ala and the presence of Sayyiduna and Mawlana Muhammad, the truthful and trustworthy, salla ALLAH 'alayhi wa salam.

The truthful person seeks out the truthful and will find them, and whoever is determined will find what he seeks, and whoever exerted effort will experience spiritual vision.

“O you who believe, be mindful of ALLAH and be with those who are truthful.” (Q. 9: 119)

Equally, a liar seeks out liars and lives a lie, experiencing nothing more than the delusion of a mirage.

“And so We appointed for every Messenger an enemy - devils from among mankind and the jinn, who incite one another with embellished words, as a means of delusion. If ALLAH had willed, they would have been unable to do so, therefore, renounce them and their deceptions. This is so that the hearts of those who disbelieve in the Hereafter may incline to such deceit, that they may remain pleased with it, and that they may continue on in their deluded state.” (Q. 6: 112-113)

This has been fully experienced and is well documented; I hope that you are able to open your hearts through remembrance (dhikr) in the same way that you have opened up your minds through experience.

O ALLAH do not allow to become us the worst of creation through the eminence of Your Beloved Messenger Sayyiduna and Mawlana Muhammad salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam, his family, his companions, his wives, his supporters, and the beloved from his community, ‘alayhi afdal al-salat wa al-salam.

ALLAHumma amin Ya Rabb al-‘Alamin!

***Equally, a liar
seeks out liars
and lives a lie,
experiencing
nothing more
than the
delusion of a
mirage.***

- 10 -

Sayyiduna and Mawlana Muhammad salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam has left us clear indications of how can be close to him salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam and in his company on the Day of Judgment:

1. Good character and refined manners

In a hadith Sayyiduna and Mawlana Muhammad salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam said, *“The most beloved of you to me and closest of you to me on the Day of Judgment will be the ones with the most refined character. And the most hateful to me and the most distant of you from me on the Day of Judgment will be those who talk excessively, those who boast excessively and the ‘muttafayhaqun.’”* They asked, *“We know those who talk excessively and those who boast excessively but who are the ‘muttafayhaqun’ O Rasul ALLAH?”* He, salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam, replied, *“The arrogant.”*

Notice how the noble Companions knew those who talk excessively and those who boast excessively, because they were familiar with them in their own time. As for the ‘arrogant’ they did not exist at that time but they do now – as we approach the end of time.

As for us in this time, all three categories not

only exist but are present among us, surround us, and are an intrinsic part of us ... wa la hawla wa la quwwata illa bi ALLAH al-‘Aliyyu al-‘Azim!

O ALLAH, save us from every punishment as indeed we are believers ... O ALLAH, grant us salvation ... O ALLAH, save us ... O ALLAH, guide us.

“The closest of you to me on the Day of Judgment will be the one who invoked the most salat upon me.”

2. The Second quality that brings proximity to Sayyiduna and Mawlana Rasul ALLAH salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam is to invoke abundant salat and salam upon him salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam.

In another hadith Sayyiduna and Mawlana Muhammad salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam said, *“The closest of you to me on the Day of Judgment will be the one who invoked the most salat upon me.”*

Both of these qualities were the practice of the early generations and they would keenly advise their children, their families, their friends and their beloved companions to practice these two ‘pillars’ of gaining proximity to Sayyiduna and Mawlana Muhammad salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam, his family, his companions and his wives.

- 11 -

I intend by the term ‘mawqif, that I pause, reflect and contemplate ... how we were and what we have become. Everything has changed and changed, suddenly and dramatically.

ALLAH subhana wa ta’ala states in His Book – the Noble Qur’an that was revealed to His Beloved Messenger, Sayyiduna and Mawlana Muhammad salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam,

“O you who believe, be mindful of ALLAH and speak truthfully; your actions will be corrected for you and your sins will be forgiven. And whoever is obedient to ALLAH and His Messenger then they have attained the greatest prize.” (Q. 33: 70-71)

This ayah is written over the gate of the Baqi’ cemetery next to the Haram al-Nabawi al-Sharif in Medina near the entrance that leads to visitation area of Sayyiduna and Mawlana, our interceder, our Imam, our Leader and our Muhammad, Rasul ALLAH, salla ALLAH ‘alayhi wa salam and upon his family, his companions, his supporters, his wives and his children.

In these two ayahs we can find everything that we require during times of difficulty, in which everything has changed, everything has been rejected, everything has been confused, everything has been altered and everything has been transformed. Everything has been polluted,

whether it is the heart, the soul, ideas, opinions, understanding, beliefs, religion, values, principles, manners, behavior, family relations, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, marriage and divorce, professors, teachers, scholars and Shaykhs.

O ALLAH, Whose mercy has encompassed every created being, I am a created being so bestow Your mercy upon me O ALLAH, my Beloved.

Let’s study these ayahs in detail with some depth ...

Why were these ayahs written over that particular entrance?

This is the gate through which the funeral processions exit the sacred mosque on their way to the Baqi’ cemetery and thus, the dead exit this worldly realm to that of hereafter.

In the past nothing would be written except after express permission from the one from whom permission is sought had been given.

Moreover, there were well known, senior members of the pious elite who knew how to seek permission.

In addition, this phenomena was not limited to the two sacred sites but indeed, included every mosque all over the world. This was only the case, however, while there was still respect and reverence for the scholars who occupied the ranks of the pious elite and spiritual elect.

But when we felt we no longer needed them,

they left and dedicated themselves to ALLAH subhana wa ta'ala and they left us in the depths of this insurmountable pit.

Nevertheless, they still exist and indeed, they are present in every time.

However, they are only 'seen' with the heart not the eyes, on condition that the heart is purified, captivated and enlightened.

May ALLAH endow us all with understanding and the finest etiquette.

O ALLAH do not allow us to become the worst of creation ya ALLAH!

ALLAHumma amin ... amin ...amin.

However, they are only 'seen' with the heart not the eyes, on condition that the heart is purified, captivated and enlightened.



- 12 -

There is a very important point that is well known but we have forgotten it, or we have chosen to forget it ...

In the past, the world was still beautiful, i.e. before the advent of the internet and satellite TV channels, and the shortening of distances – so that the world became a Global Village as they say. Although this may have some advantages from a certain perspective we have still lost a great deal and we continue to lose even more.

Every continent, country, area and city had its own features, heritage, ideas, and understanding of current events and history. More importantly, each place had its own unique lifestyle.

Nowadays, however, every country is forced – either directly or indirectly – to have a unified set of characteristics and single way of doing things. This of course is impossible from a number of perspectives and for a number of reasons; it is not possible for all people to be a single entity – even if they do share the same foods, drinks and clothing.

More importantly, the issue that concerns us here and one that we must reflect on time and again is that it is not possible for a single country or state to produce one version of Islam to be imposed on everyone else. If we do we will fail and the in reality the result has been failure.

In the past, if a dynamic religious scholar moved

Every continent, country, area and city had its own features, heritage, ideas, and understanding of current events and history. More importantly, each place had its own unique lifestyle.



from one place to another, he would change a great deal, especially in his manner, his opinions, and his way of thinking, to suit the people in the new place.

There is an excellent example of this in Sayyiduna Imam al-Shafi'i, radiya ALLAH 'anhu – imam of the Shafi'i school of law – who, when he moved from Makka al-Mukarrama to Egypt, re-wrote his jurisprudential opinions in his book al-Umm, in a manner that suited the situation in Egypt. It is for this reason that his school of law proliferated all over the world.

Consequently, our teachers, radiya ALLAH 'anhum, told us that there three essential factors that the mufti, jurist and dynamic religious scholar must have knowledge of:

1. The place, i.e. the place where he is at present;
2. The time, i.e. he understands and comprehends the current situation and what is needed;
3. The people, i.e. he knows the state of the people surrounding him and there degree of religiosity.

From this we can deduce something very important that has escaped the vast majority but is self-evident – it is impossible to take a fatwa or a legal ruling from one country or state and impose it or apply it in another country or state. This is impossible and will continue to be impossible, if we take into consideration the principle of remaining optimistic and maintaining a good opinion about people.

This is why mistakes have occurred and continue to occur until we have reached the stage where some attribute disbelief to others and accuse them of heresy, while others resort to murder and as a result, we became the worst of creation.

So will the intelligent understand and return back to ALLAH subhana wa ta'ala and repent to Him?

O ALLAH do not allow us to become the worst of creation, O ALLAH grant us Your mercy and good pleasure!

ALLAHumma amin ... amin ...amin.

From this we can deduce something very important that has escaped the vast majority but is self-evident – it is impossible to take a fatwa or a legal ruling from one country or state and impose it or apply it in another country or state.

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To search for the perfected spiritual master, who nurtures, who has attained and guides others, is vitally important from two perspectives:

First Perspective:

We have multiple spiritual diseases so who will treat them for us? To which hospital will we go? With which consultant and physician will we be cured?

Second Perspective:

Anyone who wants to adopt the role of a spiritual master in this time must recognize his own capacity and ask himself if he can really cure these spiritual illnesses in others, which can only be cured by a nurturing and perfected spiritual master.

Divine blessings remain among us due to the efforts made by our ancestors and the spiritual masters of the Sufi lodges but the critical question remains, in which lineage does the mystical secret exist right now?

“Everyone is singing for Layla but where is Layla’s tent right now?”

These spiritual illnesses are a seven headed demon and when we use the term ‘lower soul’ (nafs) we intend the soul inclined to evil – the

heavy soul, the dark soul, the despicable soul, and the animal soul.

The soul inclined to evil continually encourages iniquity and considers it praiseworthy. In this sense it resembles a demon with seven heads:

1. The physical appetites;
2. Anger;
3. Arrogance;
4. Envy;
5. Greed;
6. Miserliness;
7. Ostentation.

There is no rest or cure from these spiritual malaises except through the companionship of the perfected spiritual masters radiya ALLAH ‘anhum ajma’in – and may ALLAH benefit us through them.

May ALLAH bestow his good pleasure upon the one who composed the following lines:

Seek the companionship of a spiritual master who is familiar with the spiritual pathways;

He saves you from destruction upon the spiritual journey;

He reminds you of ALLAH if you see him;

And he delivers the lowly servant to his exalted Master.